

LSPA MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 3, 2011

The meeting started at 7:10pm in the cafeteria.

The meeting began with a quick update from Cheryl Shepard and Kate Carpini about the Fall Clean-up. This year's clean-up is scheduled to be Sunday, October 30th from 11-2 (rain date will be Sunday, November 6th at the same time). Kate encouraged everyone to come, even for a small part of the time, to help tidy up the school grounds. This event will provide a great opportunity for students participating in the Triple Marathon to earn some "good deeds" – stay tuned for specifics.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lietza Molloy presented the year-to-date actuals through September 30, 2011. Overall, the LSPA shows a Closing Balance of \$25,487.64. Lietza began with an update on the Direct Appeal, which stands at 71% of goal or over \$19,000 received. Last year at this time, the Direct Appeal had only garnered \$10,690, so we are off to a much better start. On the expense side, the biggest line item expense at over \$1,100 is against the class teachers/specialists account. Each year, the LSPA allocates funds for teachers to spend in the classroom. Eight teachers have already requested reimbursement this year.

The LSPA approved the September YTD Treasurer's Report.

GUEST SPEAKERS – SAMANTHA FONSECA-MOREIRA, SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRS) & SGT. TOM GROUX, WINCHESTER SAFETY OFFICER

Samantha Fonseca-Moreira introduced herself and Safe Routes to School (SRS), an initiative of the Mass Department of Transportation. SRS has two goals: 1) to get all kids to walk or bike to school, and 2) if doing goal #1 is not safe, to make it safe. In 1969, 48% of children in the US walked or biked to school; since then, the percent has declined and is now at only 13% of children. There are several reasons for this change, both real and perceived, but we do know that there are real benefits for children who walk or bike, such as decreasing the likelihood of obesity and increasing brain activity from the physical activity.

SRS can help a community develop programs and overcome limitations in its infrastructure to increase children's physical activity, improve safe routes, and improve air quality. For example, they are supporting the International Walk to School Day on October 5th (Lincoln is participating!) as well as the Mass Walk to School Day in May. They can also assist in securing and arranging Mass DOT engineering studies and funding for safe bike routes in the community.

Samantha stressed that the key community ingredient they need is volunteers, or owners of these projects. If you are concerned and passionate about improving the walking safety of our children at Lincoln and would like to learn more about SRS, you can email Samantha at Samantha.fonseca-moreira@state.ma.us, call her at (617) 892-6083, or go to www.commute.com to learn more.

Sgt. Tom Groux then spoke to the LSPA. Tom has been Winchester's Safety Officer for all the elementary schools since 2009, although he has been in Winchester for over 23 years. He made several points:

- Because of Lincoln's in-town location, our school has more crossing guards than any other, but we are *always* in danger of losing them due to budget pressures and cuts

- Given the topography and the current infrastructure along major school routes, Tom does not recommend we encourage children to bike at all, but safer walking routes are a possibility
- There was a lively discussion between Tom and the LSPA members about traffic dangers, especially speeding and volume of traffic along Highland Ave. Tom suggested petitioning for and using the “Your speed is” moveable signs on that road (also, SRS can help fund)
- An engineering study has been approved and awarded to investigate and recommend ways to make the entire town safer overall
- If you would like to contact Tom for ideas and how to help make changes, please contact him at tgroux@winchesterpd.org or by phone at (781) 729-1341, x318.

Kate Scanlon added that our biggest opportunity at Lincoln to enact the goals of the SRS, mitigate traffic congestion and still keep children safe while the town investigates other solutions is the “walking bus” concept: children can be dropped at a central location and then can be walked by parent volunteers to school. The idea would require parents to organize it; if interested, please contact Kate. Alternatively, parents today can consider parking at the Jenks center and walking their children to school from there, alleviating congestion right at the school grounds.

Sarah Girotti added that the “blink” traffic lights that warn drivers they are entering a school or heavy pedestrian zone will be installed by November 15, 2011, which hopefully will provide adequate warning to drivers. She also said that she plans to send out a survey to K parents about the idea of a “valet pick-up service” we would like to test.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

The September 8, 2011 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as is.

CO-PRESIDENTS’ REPORT

Kate Carpini offered a number of huge thank-you’s to:

- Pam Balfanz and Shauneen Donlon for an amazing Welcome Back Dinner in absolute, and especially given the added weather complications that brought us indoors
- The Room Parents for all of their support and great communication on Curriculum Night and going forward
- The Social Committee for supporting our LSPA events

Kate is also very happy with the amount raised so far in the Direct Appeal, but added that only 50% of families have contributed so far. Our goal is not just an overall dollar amount but a participation level – no less than 100% - so we need to keep reminding families to give whatever they can, but please give.

All information has been submitted for the School Directory, so that should be available soon. Kate also mentioned that we currently have no chair for the 5th grade babysitting committee, and as October conferences are quickly approaching, please consider volunteering!

Sarah Girotti provided a few updates from the School Committee:

- The district has a new interim assistant superintendent – Dick Robatt – who will be a great addition to our district this year
- The Redistricting Committee is forming, which will recommend elementary school district changes to coincide with the completion of the new Vinson-Owen school in 2013. Bill McAlduff will be sending out an email blast asking for interested parents to volunteer. Members will be appointed by the end of this year.
- The Town Manager search is underway with 4 final candidates. The Committee's interview portion is public and will occur on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 from 3-8pm.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Kate Scanlon repeated the great staffing changes she outlined in her Principal's Letter in today's LincLetter, as follows:

In case your child tells you he or she has a new "teacher", it is because we have several temporary staffing changes at Lincoln. Maureen Mitropoulos, special education aide who also worked as a physical therapist prior to coming to Lincoln, has taken a temporary position in the system as an elementary physical therapist. She will service students in all the elementary schools until December. Joanne Baldini who has been at Lincoln for four years as an ISS will fill in for Maureen during that time. Two of our ADK aides, Jeanette Lahey and Nicole Wolfe, will cover the ISS days vacated by Joanne on Monday and Friday. All of them are excited about their new roles.

The meeting concluded at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Shepard.